

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00
DODE-00 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05
NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00
INT-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 AF-10 ARA-06
EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 TRSE-00 OIC-02 ISO-00 /145 W
-----221712Z 072645 /45

R 221634Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2958
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, PORG, IMCO

SUBJECT: IMCO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF
US PROPOSALS ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION

REF: LONDON 6282 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IMCO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC) DISCUSSED US PROPOSALS ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION IN DETAIL APR. 21. PROPOSALS HAD BEEN PRESENTED BY USDEL 18 APR., REPORTED REFTEL. MSC AGREED TO RECOMMEND SCHEDULING DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FEB. 6-17, 1978; JOINT MSC-MEPC MEETING OCT. 10-21, 1977; AND TO ESTABLISH OPEN-ENDED TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP TO MEET THREE OR FOUR TIMES BEFORE OCT. 1977. MSC ALSO AGREED TO RECOMMEND RESCHEDULING OF STANDARDS OF TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING (STW) CONFERENCE TO JUNE 1978 AND TO RESCHEDULE FINAL STW SUBCOMMITTEE PREPARATORY WORK ACCORDINGLY. SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY COUNCIL AT MAY SESSION. MOST DELS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION CREW STANDARDS AREA. MANY DELS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT NEED FOR FURTHER CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS AS PROPOSED BY US. END SUMMARY.

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2. LENGTHY STATEMENT BY UK DEL (ARCHER) LARGELY SET THE TONE FOR MSC DISCUSSION OF US PROPOSALS. ARCHER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US EFFORT TO GAIN IMCO AGREEMENT, BUT VOICED CONCERN ABOUT QUOTE BACKGROUND THREAT OF US UNILATERAL ACTION END QUOTE. UK ENDORSED EFFORTS TO SPEED UP ENTRY INTO FORCE OF 1973 POLLUTION AND 1974 SOLAS CONVENTIONS; RESCHEDULING OF STANDARDS OF TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING CONFERENCE FOR JUNE 1978; DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONALLY-ACCESSIBLE CASUALTY DATA BANK; AND EVEN-HANDED CONTINUATION OF US BOARDING PROGRAM. HOWEVER, UK CHARACTERIZED SPECIFIC US CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT PROPOSALS (REFORM PARAGRAPH IN PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 17 MAR.) AS QUOTE BOTHERSOME END QUOTE REOPENING OF ISSUES ON WHICH US ACCEPTED COMPROMISE FORMULATIONS IN 1973 POLLUTION CONVENTION. IN HMG'S VIEW, US CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT PROPOSALS LESS IMPORTANT THAN IMPROVING ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING STANDARDS AND CREW QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS. ARCHER SAID HE CONSIDERED IT QUOTE A PITY END QUOTE IF US VIEWS CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS AS

MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF PACKAGE.

3. NEVERTHELESS, UK AGREED THAT US CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT PROPOSALS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE PREFERABLY IN FEB. 1978, FOLLOWING ON A JOINT MSC-MEPC MEETING IN OCTOBER 1977 AND SUITABLE PREPARATORY WORK BY INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP. ARCHER ARGUED THAT DEC. 1977 TOO EARLY TO PERMIT ADEQUATE PREPARATION FOR SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE.

4. UK ALSO PROPOSED CONSIDERATION OF IMCO SPONSORED QUOT MARINE SAFETY CORPS END QUOTE OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO ASSIST NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS IN DEVISING AND IMPLEMENTING ADEQUATE INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES. UK ALSO URGED THAT IMCO EFFORTS BE CONCENTRATED ON OLDER OR SUBSTANDARD SHIPS.

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5. IN LONG BUT VAGUE STATEMENT, USSR INDICATED PRELIMINARY SUPPORT FOR US INITIATIVE, BUT QUESTIONED REASONABLE-

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NESS OF US PROPOSED SCHEDULE. SOVIETS NOTED THAT NEW
SOVIET TANKERS SUBSTANTIALLY MET ALL OF THE PROPOSED US
STANDARDS, BUT DID NOT DISCUSS RETROFIT OF SEGREGATED
BALLAST. SOVIETS ALSO RESERVED ON AGREED WORK SCHEDULE
(PARA. 1).

6. FRANCE, NORWAY, FINLAND, SWEDEN, FRG AND CANADA ALL

DIRECTION OF IMCO WORK; ALL SUPPORTED WORK SCHEDULE
PROPOSED BY UK. ALL EXPRESSED PRINCIPAL INTEREST IN
MEASURES TO FOCUS ON HUMAN ERROR AND TO STRENGTHEN
INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT.

7. EGYPT STRESSED THAT ARAB OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES SUFFERED MOST FROM BALLAST DISCHARGE, AND GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO US PROPOSALS. GOE DEL SAID THAT ARAB COUNT-RIES WOULD WELCOME IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED US REGULA-TIONS, AND WOULD THEREAFTER APPLY SIMILAR REGULATIONS.

8. NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CON-CENTRATION ON OIL TANKERS IN FORTHCOMING IMCO WORK COULD DELAY WORK ON CHEMICALS AND OTHER SUBJECTS OF GREAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTANCE TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

9. BOTH JAPANESE AND GREEKS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF EXPEDITING WORK IN IMCO. JAPANESE DELE-GATE STRESSED THAT GOJ WAS NOT ABLE TO SUPPORT TIME SCHEDULE PROPOSED BY UK (E.G., FEB. 1978 CONFERENCE). IN GOJ VIEW, IT WAS PREMATURE TO SCHEDULE A CONFERENCE OR MSC-MEPC JOINT MEETING UNTIL OUTCOME OF PREPARATORY WORK KNOWN.

10. SECGEN SRIVASTAVA COMMENDED USG FOR MAKING ITS INITIATIVE IN IMCO, AND STRESSED VIEW THAT QUOTE THE HEART OF IMCO'S WORK END QUOTE IS NOW BASICALLY IN ASSUR-ING IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDS ALREADY DEVELOPED. HE CHARACTERIZED UK PROPOSALS FOR PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH IMCO AS QUOTE VERY ATTRACTIVE END QUOTE.

11. ON FRIDAY, APR. 22, INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON TANKER SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION MET FOR ORGANIZA-TIONAL SESSION. GROUP DECIDED TO MEET MAY 16-19 TO CONSIDER INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES; JUNE 20-24 (IN CONJUNCTION WITH MEPC) TO DISCUSS SEGREGATED BALLAST, DOUBLE BOTTOMS AND INERT GAS SYSTEMS; AND ON JULY 18-22 FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ALL PROPOSALS. GROUP PREPARED INVITATION TO ALL IMCO MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSESSIONAL PREPARATORY WORK

12. COMMENT: SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF MSC MEMBERS OPPOSED US PROPOSAL FOR DECEMBER DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON GROUNDS THAT PROPOSED US SCHEDULE WOULD NOT PERMIT ADEQUATE PREPARATION. WE BELIEVE THAT COMPROMISE WORK PROGRAM (FEBRUARY 1978 CONFERENCE; OCTOBER JOINT MSC-MEPC MEETING; AND MAY, JUNE AND JULY INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS) WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE PREPARATORY WORK, AND SHOULD SUBSTANTIALLY ENHANCE THE CHANCES FOR A SUCCESSFUL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFERENCE. END COMMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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